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### PRESS RELEASE

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### **“KING OF ENGLAND” SENTENCED FOR THREATENING TO KILL GORE’S UNCLE**

Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced today the sentencing of **Robbins L. Mitchell, Jr.**, 53, of Houston, Texas, for Threatening an Immediate Family Member of (former) Vice President Al Gore, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 879(a)(2). **Mitchell** was sentenced today by Chief United States District Judge James D. Todd to a term of 18 months in federal prison, for threatening to kill Gore’s maternal uncle, Whit La Fon, 82, a retired state court judge in Jackson, TN.

**Mitchell** was arrested last December in Houston by the Secret Service, who was familiar with **Mitchell** based on phone calls he had placed to the Carthage, Tennessee home of former U.S. Senator Al Gore, Sr. in 1997. In the earlier investigation, **Mitchell** advised Secret Service agents that one of his favorite subjects was the death of Al Gore, Jr.

At his guilty plea on May 18th, **Mitchell** admitted calling the office of La Fon repeatedly and leaving voice mail messages last November. Tapes of the calls were played in court

documenting the threats to kill La Fon if he did not convince then Vice President Gore to concede the election for President of the United States being contested in Florida. In one call, **Mitchell**, identifying himself as “The King of England”, promised to personally drive to Jackson and kill La Fon himself. Mitchell’s attorney advised Judge Todd that Mitchell, through genealogical research, believes he is the lawful heir to the Crown of St. Edward and thus, is the rightful King of England.

In today’s sentencing, Judge Todd told **Mitchell** his acts “were those of a domestic terrorist in that they threatened violence to achieve a political goal”. Todd noted that **Mitchell**’s “timing was very poor in that respect” and that “this country could not tolerate threats to its elected leaders if our system of government is to remain viable”.

The conviction brings to a conclusion a joint FBI-Secret Service investigation which was very successful in rapidly identifying **Mitchell** as the caller and taking him into custody. Harris had special praise for Special Agent Steve Mixon of the Memphis Field Office of the Secret Service and FBI Special Agent Clayton Goldsmith of the Jackson Resident Agency. Supervisory Assistant U. S. Attorney Len Register prosecuted the case for the government.